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USAID REGIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE MANAGEMENT
OF AQUATIC RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC ALTERNATIVES

USAID PROGRAM FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF AQUATIC RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC ALTERNATIVES

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT APRIL – SEPTEMBER 2010

October 15^h, 2010

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by Chemonics International.

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Contract No. EPP-I-00-04-00020-00
Task Order No.5

The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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ACRONYMS

ANAM	Panama's National Environmental Authority (Spanish acronym)
ARAP	Panama's Regional Fishery Authority (Spanish acronym)
ASOPROGAL	Local environmental management program association
CAFTA-DR	USAID Central American-Dominican Republic Free Trade Treaty Program
CAP	Conservation Actions Planning
CAPENIC	Nicaraguan Fishing Chamber
CCAD	Central American Environment and Development Commission
CCAW	Conservation of Central American Watersheds Program
CCC	Caribbean Conservation Corporation
CDB	Biological Diversity Agreement
CISP	Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli
CIT	Transferable Individual Quotas
CMRS	Coastal and Marine Research Strategy
COP	Chief of party
COTR	Contracting Officer's Technical Representative
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
GO	Government Organization
GOF	Gulf of Fonseca
GOH	Gulf of Honduras
IAC	Inter-American Convention for the Conservation of Turtles
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
ITQ	Individual Transferable Quotas
KRA	Key Results by Area
MARFUND	Meso American Reef Fund
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAREA	Aquatic Resources and Economic Alternatives Management Program
MARN	Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources
MCV	Monitoring, Control and Vigilance
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NGO	Non Government Organization
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OSPESCA	Fishing and Aquaculture Organization of the Central American Isthmus
PMP	Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
PMU	Project Management Unit
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
RFIN	Regional Fisheries Information Network
SAF	Strategic Activities Fund
SICA	Secretariat for Central American Integration
STRI	Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute
TIDE	Toledo Institute for Development and Environment
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TRIGOH	Three Nation Alliance of the Gulf of Honduras

UCME	Utila Center for Marine Ecology
UNEP	United National Environmental Program
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development
USAID/ELE	USAID Program for Environmental and Labor Excellence
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

USAID's Aquatic Resources and Economic Alternatives Management Program (MAREA) contributes towards the achievement of Strategic Objective 2 of USAID's Regional Program *Economic Freedom: Open and diversified economies in expansion* through technical assistance to reduce the main threats from unsustainable fishing practices and coastal development through rights-based access mechanisms. The program seeks to strengthen marine-coastal resource management, conservation of critical biodiversity in four trans-border zones in Central America and to improve the inhabitants' quality of life. The program started in March of 2010 and will continue until September of 2014. The four trans-boundary sites are:

1. Gulf of Honduras (Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras)
2. Gulf of Fonseca (El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua)
3. Miskitos Coast (Honduras and Nicaragua)
4. Cahuita-Bocas del Toro Coast (Costa Rica and Panama)

USAID has identified two essential intervention components which serve to be the basis of MAREA's strategic work. They are as follows:

1. Promote the effective monitoring and application of policies for coastal marine resources and their legislation; and
2. Encourage rights and market-based mechanisms, as well as promote management incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of the coastal-marine resources and priority marine coastal ecosystems in the region.

The first annual report covers the period between April and September of 2010. These first six months were critical for MAREA. The Program established the basic foundation and key pillars for regional and national interventions—paving the path for successful implementation and sustainable development impact. A central office for the program was set up in San Salvador, the core team was hired under the direction of the Chief of Party, Dr. Gina C. Green, and the administrative and operational personnel were also contracted. MAREA's main activities during these first six months consisted of building strategic communication channels in each Central American country with relevant regional and national authorities-- such as Secretariat for Central American Integration (SICA), Central American Environment and Development Commission (CCAD) and Fishing and Aquaculture Organization of the Central American Isthmus (OSPESCA). Likewise, the MAREA Program was endorsed and validated through visits to Environment and Agriculture Ministries and Fisheries Authorities in each country. These visits were made in close collaboration between MAREA's team and USAID's regional biodiversity technical specialist, Dr. Carlos Roberto Hasbun. Visits were also made to every bilateral USAID mission in Central America. In sum, the time and devotion dedicated to these critical visits have established formal and informal relationships with key NGOs, as well as local, national, regional and government authorities throughout the region—thus securing important buy-in for the Program but also legitimizing the technical activities with crucial stakeholders and beneficiaries.

The Program is being implemented by Chemonics with the following subcontractors: The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Caribbean Conservation Corporation (CCC), SOLIMAR, and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The Program defined the terms of reference for the 5 implementing partners: TNC, WCS, Caribbean Conservation Corporation CCC, SOLIMAR, and WWF, with whom the respective subcontracts were signed and specific activities have begun in the four trans-border sites.

Under component one, the program obtained the approval of its Branding and Marking Plan and Monitoring and Evaluation Plan from USAID; it has defined the baseline for the technical and institutional needs in charge of administering the marine and coastal resources in each Central American country . During this period, a dialogue was also established with various scientific institutions to carry out coastal management and fisheries research in the region.

Regarding component two, MAREA contacted private organizations within the framework of strategic alliances and associations to leverage funds for conservation. The Program also started to identify the areas for the implementation of plans or model programs in the Gulf of Honduras. In Cahuita-Bocas del Toro, the Program began a market research that connects turtle conservation with sustainable tourism within the framework of the regional marketing initiative. Additionally, MAREA has begun to carry out assessments on the impact of climate change on coastal communities, ecosystems and key fish and endangered species. The Program has also begun evaluating climate change models for the Gulf of Honduras.

SECTION I MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

A. Approach

MAREA's strategic approach emphasizes working with and through local and regional stakeholders, rather than working on their behalf. Recognizing that sustainable conservation and economic opportunities must without exception be achieved by local actors, MAREA developed all activities on a foundation of participation and regional ownership. With our regional partners, government institutions and sub-contractors, we have put the highest priority on working simultaneously at regional, national, and local levels to strengthen and improve the regional policy framework and to implement integrated ecosystem-based management.

The MAREA program aims to address a complex endeavor to reduce and mitigate the effects of overfishing while simultaneously pursuing the introduction of innovative and improved practices for the management of coastal resources along the four trans-boundary sites. One of the first most and important activities accomplished was to seek the collaboration and endorsement of the environmental and regional fisheries authorities, CCAD and OSPESCA, as well as from the environmental and fisheries authorities of the seven Central American countries. In the past six months, MAREA, in collaboration with USAID was able to gain the approval and endorsement of fisheries and environmental authorities thus enabling MAREA's first year work plan to be implemented in close cooperation with key stakeholders and beneficiaries.

B. Resources

B.1 Personnel

During the past six months, MAREA successfully:

- Hired long term staff members and key personnel
- Defined roles and responsibilities
- Developed extensive work plans for each staff member.
- Developed short term contracts for technical consultants

MAREA has hired strong technical personnel who are able to maneuver the delicate and complicated issues of national and regional policy development and coordination, while managing and providing guidance for on-the-ground activities at the local and trans-boundary level. This entails diplomacy, technical skills and hands on experience. MAREA's team has the capacity to work at higher political levels but also is experienced with on-the-ground realities and project management. Each component leader has four areas of responsibility: regional and national policy development, supervision of subcontractors, management of field activities, and promotion of research and training.

See annex 1 for a brief description of the management structure and division of roles and responsibilities of our long-term team.

B.2 Subcontractors

The MAREA Program is an intricate multi-layered effort that requires balancing a full list of interrelated objectives. These objectives range from harmonizing fisheries policies to equitably distributing technical assistance among partner countries, all of which must be considered simultaneously and managed concurrently. Given these objectives and the need to execute the Program in a flexible and adaptive manner, we developed sub-contracts and annual scopes of work for each of our international subcontractors. Each of the subcontractors has initiated key activities during this implementation period including:

- Subcontracts were developed between Chemonics and all subcontractors and all but WWF and WCS's have been signed to date.
- All subcontractors' representatives met with MAREA's core team either in San Salvador or at a field site in order to learn and understand project objectives, results, and targets of MAREA for life of project as well as for first year implementation.
- These meetings allowed MAREA and the subcontractors to agree to set of activities at the trans-boundary sites, which includes definition of outputs and outcomes as part of yearly work plans.

The following table presents a brief summary of the technical involvement of each subcontractor and main task initiated during the April-September reporting period.

Subcontractor	Main and relevant tasks initiated during April-September 2010
Wildlife Conservation Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revision of Belize's National Fisheries Act initiated• Drafted White Paper on Existing Legal Framework on Fisheries Issues in Belize• Development of Glover's Reef as a model for rights- based management of lobster and other fish species.• Initiated drafting of White Paper on Conservation and Management of Central American Chondrichthyan Fish
The Nature Conservancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Started updating the Nassau Grouper Plan for Gulf of Honduras• Outlined the Queen Conch Plan for Gulf of Honduras• Creation and engagement of consultative group and stakeholder committees started in Gulf of Honduras through TRIGOH.• Started collecting information for an assessment of biological areas of importance in the Gulf of Honduras.
Solimar	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tourism site assessments has begun in (Cahuita-Bocas-Gandoca) as part of the Regional Marketing Initiative• Started drafting the design of awareness campaign and implementation plan including 5 specific campaigns identified to be launched in Bocas del Toro region

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Started drafting a concept paper for the sea turtle tourism conservation model • Outlined main elements of the sea turtle tourism toolkit.
Caribbean Conservation Corporation (or Sea Turtle Conservancy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently developing a baseline capturing the current status of hawksbill and leatherback nesting in Bocas del Toro Province, Panama • Drafted a Progress Report documenting private partnerships set up to support Panama's environmental and fisheries authorities ANAM (Panama's National Environmental Authority) and ARAP (Panama's Regional Fishery Authority) • Started developing a process to engage key opinions of indigenous leaders from the Nicaragua and Panama that will foster a new formal tri-national management arrangement for green turtles conservation in Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama
World Wildlife Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlined diagnostic of institutional capacity needs of government and non-government organizations operating in the lobster fisheries sector. • Proposal drafted for diagnostic of training needs focusing on trans-boundary sites with artisanal and industrial fisheries • Outlined the scoping study evaluating roles of brokers, wholesalers, and retailers that could participate in a reinvestment program for conservation

C. Process and Logistics

C.1 Start-Up

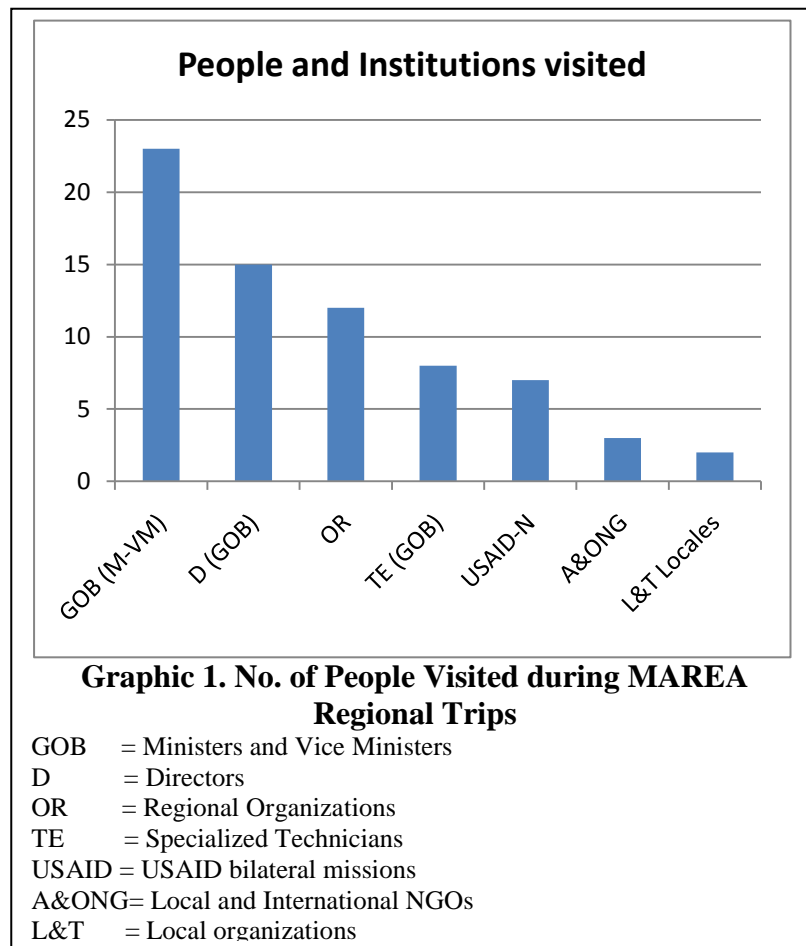
Office and Equipment

From April to July, the Program successfully established the administrative and financial processes for program management, purchased the necessary furniture and equipment, and located adequate office space which meets current and future Program needs. The office phone, internet, computer network, furniture and equipment were installed, and security services were contracted. Simultaneously, administrative staff opened a bank account, interviewed and hired two administrative assistants and an accountant, and signed contracts with long-term and short-term staff. The result of all this effort is now a well functioning regional program.

C.2 Mobilization and Country visits

One of the key strategic activities in the past six months involved the planning and organization of visits to the regional fishing and environmental authorities OSPESCA and CCAD. OSPESCA and CCAD serve as the Project's strategic counterparts.

The objective of the visits was to obtain the approval and consent of the Secretary General of the Regional Integration System –SICA-, Dr. Daniel Aleman; OSPESCA’s Regional Coordinator, Mario Gonzalez, and CCAD’s Executive Secretary, Roberto Rodriguez. The project was also presented to each of the fishing and environmental ministers in the various Central American countries to gain their endorsement and support of MAREA’s activities. The Program also asked that each ministry designate Official Liaisons in each country to coordinate the Program’s local activities.



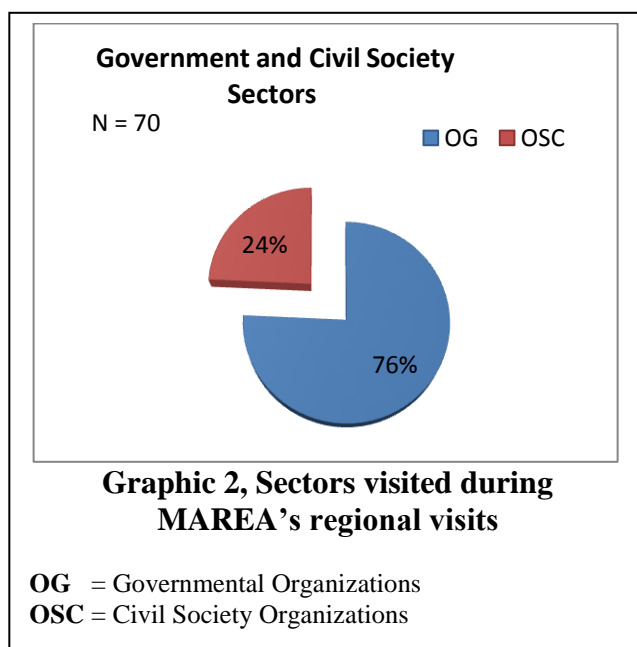
Simultaneous activities were carried out to arrange appointments with the different ministers, development agencies, and the U.S. Embassy in each country. Handouts were prepared with information on the Project in accordance to the trans-boundary sites, identifying key actions to be implemented per country. The visits and meetings took place from July to September. The team met with the Director of the Nicaraguan Fisheries Institute in July and the El Salvadorian Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the Minister of Environment in July. The visits were made

from the 27th to the 30th (Belize, Guatemala and Honduras), and a second visit took place between August 30th to September 6th (Costa Rica, Panama). During the visit to Costa Rica and Panama, the MAREA team took advantage of their presence and extended the visit to Bocas del Toro, one of the Project’s trans-boundary site where its field office will soon be established.

The Program contacted a total of 70 people and 5 sectors (See Graphic 1), the largest contact was with the government sector (See Graphic 2). The visits to Belize, Honduras, and Guatemala were carried out by MAREA’s COP, Dr. Gina Green, USAID Regional Biodiversity Specialist, Dr. Carlos Roberto Hasbun, and Sergio Martinez, Fisheries Specialist. In Costa Rica and Panama, the Program had the additional support of the

Institutional Development Specialist, Zulma de Mendoza. Two additional team members Mario Jolon, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, and Juan Carlos Villagran, Endangered Species Specialist accompanied the team on the visit to Guatemala.

The main achievements from these visits, among others, are:



1. Central America fishing and environment ministries were informed about the scopes, goals and main activities of the MAREA Regional Program.
2. Secured ministerial endorsement for the different activities.
3. Requested the designation of the official technical liaisons to coordinate the Project's implementation in each country and trans-border location.
4. Established contact with other regional organizations to coordinate efforts and synergies.
5. Learned about the strengths and challenges of the relevant institutions

6. Established closer links with USAID's bilateral missions and U.S. Embassies to avoid duplication of efforts.

During this period, technical visits were also made to each of the Project's trans-boundary sites: Gulf of Fonseca, Miskitos Coast (Nicaragua) and Gulf of Honduras. The purpose of the visits was to map the presence of the relevant stakeholders and actors in these trans-boundary locations and gain an on-the-ground in-depth understanding of the various needs of each site. Finally, terms of reference for each trans-boundary Program Coordinators were developed based on the needs of each site.

C.3 KRA Points of Entry

KRA	POINTS OF ENTRY (RESULTS)
KRA 1.1 Draft, harmonize and adopt at the regional, national and municipal level policies and legislation on target coastal and marine resources, with emphasis on rights-based, market driven approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched key communication with strategic regional institutions as OSPESCA and CCAD to gain institutional collaborations. Compiled laws and regulations for the sustainable management of Central American fisheries, marine and coastal resources.
KRA 1.2 Draft and implement law monitoring and enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared summary review and evaluation of the legal frameworks for monitoring and

strategies and action plans for coastal and marine resources and ecosystems	<p>enforcement at the national and regional level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafted MOU to be signed with CCAD and OSPESCA to share and provide critical information and data
KRA 1.3 Promote transparency and accountability and support public participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Started the review of violation, reporting community monitoring mechanisms, transparency/effectiveness mechanisms. • Began to establish a Regional Fisheries Information Network with the support of TNC, WCS, WWF and CCC using OSPESCA's extensive baseline.
KRA 1.4 Strengthen fisheries and environmental institutions and organizations with improved enforcement practices and rights-based, market-driven mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAREA's technical team gained a understanding of OSPESCA's regional work and database to begin to design training programs at the local and national level
KRA 1.5 Foster research on Central American coastal management and fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant communications have been established as strategic starting point with recognized research entities as University of Florida, the University of Baja California, Harvard University, and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute • Began consultations with potential partners and stakeholders in the pursuit of consensus on the main issues of the research strategy.
KRA 1.6 Foster the adoption and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements in all non-member Central American countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked with partners CCC and WCS to achieve the adoption of key environmental agreements as the IAC and the Tripartite Agreement to protect and conserve the sea turtles in all Central American countries.
KRA 2.1 Train artisan and industrial fishermen on best fisheries practices, with emphasis on rights and/or market-driven approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work of WCS, TNC and WWF in the trans-boundary areas have initiated in Gulf of Honduras and Miskito Cays of Nicaragua • Working jointly with these organizations and their expertise in best fisheries practices and rights-based/market-driven programs through training workshops at a local, national and regional level
KRA 2.2 Pilot the use of ITQs or similar rights-based	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAREA team is conducting a scoping study of the potential for rights-based mechanisms for targeted species in at least two of the trans-boundary zones - Gulf of Honduras (specifically Glovers Reef in Belize) and the Miskito Coast, Nicaragua

<p>KRA 2.3 Increase the demand for products and services which provide conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of tourism to increase the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources is an effective and productive way • MAREA is designing a Central American regional marketing initiative, Solimar has begun to design a program to develop an increased demand for products and services through tourism projects for Bocas de Toro, Gulf de Honduras and the Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast
<p>KRA 2.4 Draft/update and implement model plans and programs for the recovery of endangered species and their ecosystems, promoting sustainable economic development for local communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through partners TNC, WCS and WWF, MAREA have started to conduct assessments of the current state of ecosystem health, target species including communities' economic and social conditions on trans-boundary sites. • MAREA is drafting and updating implementation plans for Nassau grouper, turtles and Queen Conch in the Gulf of Honduras.
<p>KRA 2.5 Foster the establishment of public-private alliances and partnerships to leverage funds for conservation and sustainable harvest practices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAREA has begun to engage multilateral/bilateral donors in leveraging opportunities and resources for conservation • Private sector alliances are being cultivated by highlighting the economic benefits that the private sector enjoys from marine and coastal resources.
<p>KRA 2.6 Promote coastal and marine protected areas management as an important tool for sustainable fisheries and tourism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAREA has begun to develop an action plan for the Gulf of Honduras • An assessment of climate change impact and prediction models on communities, ecosystems and target species has begun for the Gulf of Honduras

SECTION II. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND ACHIEVEMENTS

This section provides detailed information on the main activities and intermediate achievements of the MAREA program during the reporting period. The description of the activities is distributed by component, then by the Key Results Area (KRA) which includes a brief description of what activities have been carried out during the April to September reporting period. Annex 2 provides a summary of project indicators and results to date.

COMPONENT 1: Promote effective monitoring and enforcement of and compliance with coastal and marine resources policies and legislation

KRA 1.1 Draft, harmonize and adopt at the regional, national and municipal level policies and legislation on target coastal and marine resources, with emphasis on rights-based, market driven approaches.

Progress to date: During the reporting period, MAREA collected relevant information on regional fishing and coastal management policies directly related to its seven target species. The core team met with directors of CCAD and OSPECA who identified and formally assigned internal technical liaisons to the MAREA project. These liaisons are now formally considered technical counterparts to the MAREA project.

1.1. a Preliminary compilation of the region policies information

During the six month reporting period, terms of reference for the legal and policy specialist were developed. The legal specialist will carry out activities such as the stop-light gap analysis of fishing policies and legislation in each Central American country.



Meeting of MAREA's core team and USAID with authorities from SICA, CCAD, and OSPESCA to endorse and legitimize the program in Central America, July 2010

CCAD and USAID supported the project by providing two framework documents for this activity: "Analysis on the State of Conservation of the Coastal Marine Resources in the Central American Region", and a study "Collection and Analysis of Regional Technical Information on Specific Norms in Traditional and Continental Fishing in Central America". Both reports serve as base line documents that support MAREA's objective to harmonize regional policies on the coastal marine resource use in Central America. Furthermore, critical information was collected from OSPESCA, CCAD, FAO, OAS, and NOAA on Central American fisheries and coastal laws

and regulations.

A technical introduction by the Director of the USAID Central American Free Trade Agreement and Dominican Republic Project (CAFTA-DR), William Garcia, was given on the "Use and Application of the "Stop Light Analysis" Tool" to three members of

MAREA's team: Dr. Gina C. Green, Sergio Martinez, and Zulma de Mendoza. This training enhanced their understanding of how to design and develop terms of reference for MAREA's legal expert who will work with the Central American institutions responsible to enforce fisheries laws and regulations.

Activity 1.1.b Establishment of technical liaisons with the authorities (CCAD and OSPESCA)

In July, MAREA's institutional development specialist presented the MAREA Program at the OSPESCA Regional Coordinator Meeting in San Salvador. The objective of the presentation was twofold: 1) to gain their buy-in to support the implementation of the MAREA Program and its goals; and 2) to establish a dialogue to work together to achieve the project's strategic objectives. During this meeting, the Regional Director for OSPESCA officially designated the National Coordinators as the Technical Liaisons for the Project in each country, which was endorsed by OSPESCA's Board of Directors. Additionally, liaisons were established for CCAD and OSPESCA; Margarita Salazar, Director of Natural Heritage on the part of CCAD, and Jorge Lopez on the part of OSPESCA, with whom periodic coordination meetings will be held.

KRA 1.2 Prepare and implement follow-up strategies to apply laws and action plans for the coastal and marine resources and ecosystems

Progress to date: MAREA visited 37 national and regional authorities and institutions and collected input to establish the institutional capacities and state of the monitoring system. Similarly, analyses have been carried out on the progress and achievements that were made through previous USAID investments in order to build future synergies and continuities.

1.2. a. Consultations with Government Institution, Regional Organizations, and NGOs

During the reporting period, the COP, Fisheries Specialist, Institutional Specialist and the USAID MAREA Cognizant Technical Officer (COTR) met with 6 ministries of the environment and 7 ministries of agriculture and fisheries. Presentations on the MAREA program were given at each meeting in order to receive their endorsement. Their concerns and recommendations were noted. Results of the visits were the following:

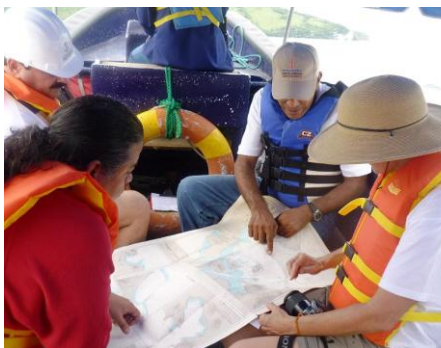
- Achieved endorsement for project from Fisheries and Environmental Regional Authorities as well as Fishing and Environment Ministries of Central America and get ministerial backing for the different activities in pilot sites areas.
- Official technical liaisons have been designated to help coordinate the project activities in each country and trans-boundary site.



**Meeting with USAID, MAREA & WCS
Belize City, Belize, July 2010**

- Established contact with other regional organizations that currently are working in the region as CCC, EDF, FUNZEL, NATURA, TNC, UICN, WCS & WWF.
- Documented strengths and weaknesses of each government institution that were visited.
- Established closer links with USAID's Bilateral Agencies and U.S. Embassies to coordinate efforts and synergies and to avoid duplicating efforts.

1.2. b. Analysis of the information and monitoring systems



Visit of the MAREA's Monitoring and Evaluation specialist to establish base line information for the Gulf of Fonseca, July 2010

Little catch information is available from regional fishing authorities that refer to the main species of commercial interest – lobsters, queen conch, snapper and grouper. There is a paucity of information at the traditional fishing level pertaining to permits and monitoring and compliance with the existing laws and regulations. The recent Structural Survey of Traditional Fishing and Aquiculture in Central America (2009) gives an estimated number of fishermen and catch applicable to these fisheries, but does not report the violations that currently occur.

Likewise, CCAD has systematized up-dated information on the declared protected areas for the region. There is a Monitoring and Evaluation System for the region that includes follow-up based on 12 indicators using the scheme that the OCDE uses: Pressure-Status-Response. The selection of the indicators was based on a diagnosis that was previously carried out in the region. There are also two previous reference studies related to the Condition of the Biodiversity in the Central American region that includes information on the coastal marine zone. The information that MAREA compiled on monitoring systems during the reporting period will be used to support OSPESCA in developing a functional fisheries monitoring system and will support CCAD with their monitoring responsibilities for marine protected areas.

1.2. c. Analysis of the institutional capacity

During the institutional visits to each country in the region, MAREA's team was able to verify institutional capacity limitations for Monitoring, Control and Vigilance (MCV) to promote law enforcement. The conclusion is that not all of the national fisheries institutions have the necessary infrastructure or information base to be considered credible, "complete" and/or reliable. The information on violations is only recorded on the industrial fisheries and the sanctions are generally not sufficiently dissuasive to prevent the recurrence of violations. It is evident that the current situation or status does not deter laws and regulations from being broken.

KRA 1.3 Promote transparency, accountability, and support public participation

Progress to date: MAREA defined and obtained the approval of its Branding and Marking Plan. The Branding and Marking Plan provides the basis for all communication activities to promote transparency and public participation in the region.

1.3. a. MAREA's Branding and Marking Plan

In order to develop the public awareness and training campaign, MAREA first had to develop the Branding and Marking Plan, (BIP/MP). The BIP/MP is fundamental tool the project will use brand, mark, and guide the dissemination of the campaign. This Plan was prepared by the Chemonics project management unit (PMU) and approved by USAID in August.

Following the guidelines set forth in the BIP/MP and USAID's approval, MAREA documents and presentations were designed and delivered in the countries that were visited. Direct communications have been established with OSPESCA for this specific activity to the effect of preparing a record of acts that violate the Law and thus build a Regional Network of Fishing Information (RFIN), an activity that will be led by Law Specialist Jose Pablo Gonzalez, with support from the specialist in Monitoring and Evaluation, Mario Jolon. As input for this activity, two reports, one published by OSPESCA/WWF (Turtle Capture Project) and the other by FAO (OSPESCA/FAO Shark Reporting Project), will be used. Likewise, the advances made by the USAID Program for Environmental and Labor Excellence (ELE) to establish the reporting systems that were developed for the region and their probable geographic and specific thematic adaptation, will be used. MAREA will design a campaign oriented towards increasing compliance with the fishing laws in the region.

The Need for Economic Alternatives for the Miskitos Coast:

Miskitos communities realize their traditional ways of fishing must change. They desire to work together with MAREA to develop economic and appropriate alternatives such as manufacturing of fiberglass boats, building of sailing dorytaras, farming of shrimp and tilapia, as well as developing community-based ecotourism initiatives.

KRA 1.4 Strengthen fisheries and environmental institutions and organizations with improved enforcement practices and rights-based, market-driven mechanisms

Progress to date: During the first six months, MAREA gathered information on national organizations to design its global strategy to increase their capacities, skills and abilities to implement mechanisms in applying the law according to access rights and a market-driven approach.

1.4. a Knowledge on the institutional needs regarding training concerns

During the institutional visits made by the MAREA project team to the Fishing and Environmental authorities (El Salvador, Belize, Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Panama) and NGOs, the authorities outlined their training needs, which are focused on:

- Support for their research and investigations on fishing resources, protected areas and endangered species;
- Review of the institutional capabilities and the logistics for applied research;
- Creation of an information network to allow free exchange of data and information,
- Training for personnel in charge of regulation, monitoring, and surveillance;
- Support in seeking economic alternatives for specific activities in the trans-boundary sites – closing down the lobster scuba-diving system (Miskitos Coast), protecting the beaches where turtles nest (Cahuita-Bocas del Toro);
- In the case of the NGOs, they placed more emphasis on the need to avoid duplicating effort, and cooperating on topics that require greater material resources and human efforts.

Government Participation

“We welcome the continuation and support for our marine resource efforts by the MAREA Program and look forward to active participation in national and regional activities...”
(meeting participant)

1.4. b Consultations with the Decision-makers and stakeholders (Government authorities, NGOs and other stakeholders)

During the institutional visits, extensive consultations were held with Government authorities and NGOs, two of the most important stakeholders and beneficiaries of the MAREA Program. Likewise, during visits to the Gulf of Honduras, Nicaraguan Miskitos Coast and Bocas del Toro in August and September, informal consultations and interviews were held with NGOs, representatives from Fishing Associations, universities, research centers, managers of product processing companies, Industrial and private fisheries Union (CAPENIC) and artisanal fisheries associations (FENICPESCA), representatives from International Organizations (FAO), merchants, fishermen, among others. Relevant outcomes from these consultations are:

- The need for alternative economic activities for local fishing communities
- Access to better markets for local fishermen
- Strategies on how to apply rights based mechanisms to fishing communities
- Understanding the impact of climate change and how adaption takes place
- Getting countries such as El Salvador and Nicaragua to become signatories and to ratify the IAC
- Appropriate scientific information on the population status of MAREA’s targeted fish species

These comments were a synthesis of the consultations held with the local stakeholders.

1.4.c Steps to get the participation of the National and Local Governments and NGOs

During the consultations noted above, steps were taken to get the cooperation and active participation of all those who were consulted and interviewed. MAREA can successfully confirm that there is wide support for the activities of the MAREA Program, especially in the case of the National Governments, almost all of whom have promised to champion and sponsor the Program's strategic objectives.

In the case of the Miskitos Coast in Nicaragua, MAREA was able to obtain the support and active participation of the local government of Puerto Cabezas. The local Government has indicated that its main interest is in generating employment among handicapped divers and those who might be losing their job after closing down fishing for lobsters using the Scuba tanks. This activity will be considered among the economic alternatives that were identified for the Miskitos Coast in Honduras and Nicaragua.

KRA 1.5 Foster research on Central American coastal management and fisheries

Progress to date: MAREA has written two drafts of cooperation agreements with international universities for research purposes on marine and coastal resources.

Indicator 1.5.1 Number of regional mechanisms implemented to foster research and provide information to sustainably manage coastal and marine resources elaborated

1.5.1. a Identification research priorities on the Program's target species and ecosystems

Regarding the Regional Research Strategy, action has been taken towards establishing the status of national or multi-national initiatives and processes. Based on this, it has been established that CBM (CCAD) conducted a research on the biodiversity of the Central American region and that OSPESCA has a specific commission for that topic. MAREA is now working with OSPECA to identify and evaluate progress that has been made, and consolidate a research strategy for fisheries. Additionally, explicit priority research topics have been identified for Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua.

1.5.1. b Identification of research institutions to carryout high priority research and scientific investigation in the region

Likewise, four research institutions have been contacted: the University of Southern Florida, the University of Baja California, Harvard University, as well as the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. MAREA is going to cooperate and partner with these institutions in carrying out research and investigations that are in line with the program's objectives. The following topics have been discussed with these institutions:

- Fishery management (lobster, conch, snapper and shark).
- Studies on the population status of the project's target species and natural coverage in the marine coastal zone.

- Development of sustainability analyses and monitoring mechanisms for coastal marine management through the development of indicators
- Analytical studies on real economic alternatives for fishermen, e.g., observing cetaceans as an alternative activity.
- Analyses of legal frameworks and policies to integrate the actions on the regional level

Indicator 1.5.2 Number of technical and scientific articles on coastal and marine resources

Progress to date: One of MAREA's achievements during this period is drawing up a publication on the status of the program's target species to be disseminated in the trans-boundary sites.

1.5.2.a Development of state of the resources profiles

A descriptive state of the resource document with a technical focus on the project's target species (Lobster, Queen Conch, Snapper, Grouper, Mangrove Shell, Sharks and Turtles) has been written and is being reviewed for publication. The document has a summary that includes fish and turtle species, common and scientific names, their biology, distribution and economic importance in the region, a brief overview of economic alternatives, and a conclusion. Images of the species that are most commonly used are included in this document. Once this document is published it will be distributed to implementing partners, local organizations, national institutions and interested users in the four trans-boundary sites.

KRA 1.6 Foster the adoption and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements in all non-member Central American countries

Progress to date: During this period the Program in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Inter-American Convention on the Protection and Conservation of Turtles has initiated dialogue with the respective ministries and for El Salvador to be a signatory on the IAC convention.

1.6.a. Steps taken with the Secretariat of the IAC

Formal communication has been established with the Secretariat of the Convention on the Protection and Conservation of Turtles (IAC) with headquarters in Washington in order to take the necessary steps for El Salvador to be a signatory to the Convention. MAREA is also leading and coordinating the process of adoption of the Three-Country Agreement on Turtles between Panama, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua.

1.6. b. Other relevant activities

- The Convention on the Protection and Conservation of Turtles is being analyzed, led by MAREA's Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, who has had previously participation in the Convention developing process.
- Formal contact has been established with Veronica Caceres, interim Secretary of the IAC Convention.
- On Friday, August 27th, an audio conference (San Salvador-Washington) was held between the Secretary of the Convention, the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the USAID-El Salvador Turtle Conservation Project, and MAREA's technical team to identify what steps should be taken in order for El Salvador to adhere to the Convention.
- Following the video conference, USAID, and IAC met again to start consolidating the process and other important topics regarding El Salvador signing the Convention. Secretariat of the IAC Convention also requested the Program's support in consolidating the efforts in this sense, as well as to facilitate regional meetings on the subject.
- This effort has been followed up with formal correspondence between the IAC and the El Salvadorian government, specifically meetings have been held with MARN and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
- The process has been documented and background information developed as well as follow-up agenda with all participants has been agreed too.

1.6. c. Participation in related activities with other Projects and Programs:

- Attendance at the Regional Workshop on "Aquatic and Coastal Marine Resources" in San Salvador, UNEP (June). The MAREA Program was presented and the core technical team participated.
- Event on Sustainable Tourism and Economic Alternatives: San Salvador, organized by the Ministry of Tourism and the Spanish Development Cooperation Agency, which was attended by the institutional development specialist and alternative livelihoods specialist, where they identified the opportunities for associations and alliances with cooperation entities present in the Gulf of Fonseca related to sustainable tourism.

"We are very pleased to be working with the MAREA Program, which we view as a most important support in moving forward with the IAC's mission....."

Veronica Caceres Secretariat
of the IAC Convention

COMPONENT 2: Rights-based and market-based mechanisms and management incentives for conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine fisheries resources and ecosystems promoted, with emphasis on ecosystem-based management

MAREA's approach is to promote rights-based and market-based mechanisms by encouraging economically important species for the region such as lobsters, queen conch

and grouper, and on the other hand, to protect threatened or endangered marine species such as turtles and sharks. These species represent the key indicators to test the use of improved management mechanisms and practices, both in the marine reserves and in the protected areas established along the coast of the four trans-boundary sites. The increase in the capacities, skills and abilities of the different stakeholders and beneficiaries that participate in these conservation and management processes represent big challenges and opportunities for MAREA. A variety of different strategies and applications will be used to increase the demand for products and services that will generate benefits for the marine coastal resources conservation. By design, these will ensure better protection for areas of biological importance, leverage resources from the private sector that will be sustainable in the long term, and develop replicable models that will benefit the marine coastal resources and the people who live from, and near them.

In addition to defining and establishing the roles and responsibilities of its main implementing partners, the MAREA team has identified the relevant training needs for fishermen and institutions. MAREA has also begun a market research study in Bocas del Toro trans-boundary site, and defined and planned five public awareness campaigns for the Cahuita-Bocas site. In addition, within the framework of up-dating the management plans and the respective hectares in the Gulf of Honduras, the areas and species have already been identified.

KRA 2.1 Train artisan and industrial fishermen on best fisheries practices, with emphasis on rights and/or market-driven approaches.

Progress to date: MAREA compiled the training needs of the fishermen in the program's areas and identified OSPESCA's database as the platform to implement these trainings.

2.1a Information on the training needs in the trans-boundary sites

The MAREA Program has identified training needs on rights-based and market-based mechanisms and best fisheries practices, these training requirements are very similar to the training needs that were identified in KRA 1.4.

2.1b Initial identification of the possible participants

OSPESCA's experience in the region in training the trainers and traditional fishermen on best fisheries practices will be the basis for identifying suitable trainers for MAREA to carry out its objectives under KRA 2.1. These trainers can multiply the teachings on the topics of the different trainings that have been scheduled in MAREA's Program.

KRA 2.2 Pilot the use of ITQs or similar rights-based mechanisms.

Indicator 2.2.1 Percentage increase in total harvest of selected species under rights-based mechanisms and better fisheries practices.

Progress to date: MAREA determined that there is little existing available documentation in the region on Individual Transferable Quotas based on access rights.

2.2.1 a Bibliographic compilation on rights-based mechanisms

In order to carry out the study on rights-based mechanisms, specifically on Individual Transferable Quotas (ITQ), it is necessary to have sufficient information on the topic. With only one exception – the case of Nicaragua – there are no mechanisms for assigning fishing quotas regulated by law. For this reason, MAREA is preparing a document that broadly deals with this concern, presenting the successes and the failures, as well as case studies and lessons learned, emphasizing WCS' and its experience in the Gulf of Honduras, specifically at Glover's Reef, which can be used as an adaptive model for other trans-boundary sites.

Indicator 2.2.2 Number of quotas established for the sustainable use of the coastal and marine resources

Progress to date: MAREA established that in order for the different management approaches, including CIT, to be viable it is necessary to consult with the decision-makers and users of the marine and coastal resources.

2.2.2. a Viability analysis of the different management approaches

During the institutional visits, based on the region's fishing and aquaculture legislation and regulations, it was inferred that the viability of the different management approaches – including the variations of ITQs – are feasible as long as they are based on clear communications derived from ample consultations with the decision-makers and the users towards whom the regulations are directed. As in the previous case, supported by the MAREA Program team, WCS can extrapolate its experience in Glover's Reef on ITQs or other access rights methods in the region.

GLOVER'S REEF is 36,000 hectares marine reserve located on Belize's Great Barrier Reef. MAREA along with the Belize Fisheries Dept. are implementing a new and innovative fisheries mechanism to establish open access rights with local fishing communities to establish sustainable quotas.

KRA 2.3 Increase the demand for products and services which provide conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources

Consumption of products from the coastal and marine resources represents an enormous potential to benefit conservation efforts all throughout Central America. The program's target species, such as lobsters, snapper, grouper, conches and queen conch, are in high demand. Nevertheless, the consumption of these species is still far from using sustainable practices that can balance the market and the environment. Turtles, an endangered species, also represent a huge market potential when their conservation is connected to

sustainable tourism. That is why the approach and the search for a balance between the demand and conservation are so important.

KRA 2.3.1 Number of Communication Efforts.

Progress to date: In this six month reporting period, MAREA began market research as part of its regional marketing initiative and it has formulated five integrated public awareness campaigns.

During the period between March-September 2010, the MAREA program established the pillars to provide a substantive contribution towards increasing the demand for products and services associated with the sustainable management of coastal and marine resources. The first step in this direction was to define the annual work plans with the program's main implementing partners and sign the respective subcontracts with Solimar and CCC.

2.3.1.a Actions to create the regional marketing initiative

MAREA will create a regional marketing initiative in Central America for the demand of sustainable tourist products and services that will benefit the conservation of species such as lobsters and turtles and their ecosystems. In September, the Program started market research in the trans-boundary area of Cahuita-Bocas del Toro. The research which includes the collection and inventory of potential tourist products and services; an analysis of the market trends for these products and services; the identification of the key stakeholders in the area (such as government representatives, the private sector and NGOs); the identification of the main threats to MAREA's sites and species of interest. Based on the outcome of the research, MAREA will propose a strategy to develop the best practices for sustainable tourism.



Traditional fishermen from the Dakura community use *Doritaras* to fish, manufacturing these boats represent an economic alternative for fishing communities in Puerto Cabezas Nicaragua, August 2010

As the result of a visit that took place in August by MAREA's specialist in alternative means to the North Atlantic region of Nicaragua, information and documentation were obtained on the initiatives and projects that are currently being carried out in the Nicaraguan North Atlantic Region (RAAN), allowing MAREA to consolidate the mapping of the relevant organizations that work in the zone, as well as the information on previous and current projects like those that are implemented by FAO and the World Bank. It was established that next December, MAREA will start this same market research in the area

of Moskitia (Nicaragua-Honduras).

2.3.1 b Implementation of awareness campaigns.

Progress was also made in planning the integrated public awareness campaign to generate a demand for ocean products that are extracted in a sustainable way. The campaign will include messages that will be disseminated through meetings and seminars to local fishermen and consumers, urban consumers, national and international tourists, among others. The MAREA Program has started with five campaigns:

- Tourist regulations for boatmen,
- Sustainable seafood,
- Better fishing practices,
- Turtle tourism, and
- Turtle egg consumption.

The campaigns will be focused on educating seafood consumers and restaurants to guarantee that adequate guidelines are followed when purchasing and supplying ocean products, concentrating on MAREA's main target species, as well as promoting the mitigation of sustainable tourism impact on turtles. In each case, strategic alliances with the private sector will be used; including sponsoring companies and the media, and the products based on sustainable practices will be promoted with the participation of the government, the private sector and civil society. The campaigns are being designed with a regional scope; and the implementation will begin in the trans-boundary area of Cahuita-Bocas del Toro.

Added to these activities it was decided that in coordination with our subcontractors we are working to develop alliances with private partners to implement sustainable tourism connected to the conservation of the turtles in the area a Bocas del Toro. As part of the public awareness campaigns, the alliances will provide:

- support to maintain biological information regarding threats and protection efforts for the turtles in the Bocas del Toro area
- up-dated information and scientific results of their activities and
- analysis of how this relates to sustainable tourism.

It was also decided that WWF will support the implementation of the campaigns focused on:

- increasing public awareness to generate a demand for seafood supplied in a sustainable manner, especially lobsters in the area of the Gulf of Honduras.

KRA 2.4 Draft/update and implement model plans and programs for the recovery of endangered species and their ecosystems, promoting sustainable economic development for local communities.

Indicator 2.4.1 Number of model plans and programs drafted or updated and implemented for coastal and marine resource management

Progress to date: During this period, MAREA has selected Gulf of Honduras and Miskitos Coast as two trans-boundary sites where it will up-date and implement three plans or programs on coastal marine resources.

2.4.1. a Turtles

During the reporting period, contacts were made with the Inter-American Convention on the Protection and Conservation of Turtles. MAREA also participated in the second regional meeting on the Initiative for the Hawksbill Turtle of the Eastern Pacific, at which potential local partners and activities in the Gulf of Fonseca were identified.

With respect to the Nicaraguan Miskito Coast, a starting plan to assess the use and conservation of green turtles was developed. This is the first step towards identifying the priority strategies and actions that MAREA will support over the following years at this site.

2.4.1.b Nassau Grouper

MAREA has started actions regarding the Nassau Grouper species through up-dating the evaluation on the status of populations for the Gulf of Honduras, which was prepared for the Meso American Reef System in 2007. Through TRIGOH's Commission for Endangered Species, a diagnosis will be conducted using the conservation action planning (CAP) method to prepare a recovery species plan.



Monkey River fishing community located in the Port Honduras Marine Reserve at Punta Gorda, Belize, September 2010

2.4.1 c Queen Conch

MAREA has begun to prepare a diagnosis on the population's status of queen conch in the Gulf of Honduras by gathering existing information in southern Belize and Honduras. MAREA is in dialogue with local partners such as TIDE (Toledo Institute for Development and Environment) and UCME (Utila Center for Marine Ecology) to jointly carry out this diagnosis. Within the framework of TRIGOH's Endangered Species Commission, MAREA will carry out a Conservation Area Plan (CAP) and prepare a species recovery and management plan for the trans-boundary site. TIDE is the NGO that currently co-manages the Port Honduras Marine Reserve in the Toledo District of Belize.

KRA 2.4.2 Value (USD) of additional sales of products or services that can be directly attributed to the activity interventions and which support conservation and or sustainable use efforts

Progress to date: Through MAREA it was possible to identify urgent threats to the marine coastal resources on the Miskitos Coast and the Gulf of Honduras, as well as complementary economic opportunities with the potential to develop sustainable conservation efforts.

2.4.2. a Identification of threats and complementary economic opportunities.

During August and September, two visits were made by MAREA's alternative livelihoods specialist, the first to the Miskitos Coast of Nicaragua and the second to the Gulf of Honduras (Guatemalan Caribbean and Belize). On both visits, MAREA contacted representatives from local organizations who are currently working and supporting productive initiatives with fisheries and cooperative groups in those regions. In addition, MAREA contacted representatives from multi-lateral organizations that are supporting alternative projects in each trans-boundary site. At Miskitos of Nicaragua, for example, FAO and the World Bank are sponsoring alternative projects with fishing communities that were affected by Hurricane Felix in 2008. In Guatemala, the Italian Cooperation Agency (ICA) is supporting the network of Caribbean fishermen from Guatemala through a project managed by CISP. At the same site, the protected areas of Sarstun and Punta de Manabique in Guatemala are showing potential to encourage projects and improve community fisheries management, and no take zones. In Belize, TIDE is also promoting alternative economies through ecotourism. In each case, MAREA has also identified important allies to encourage projects of alternative opportunities with fishermen from Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Unsustainable fishing practices, marine overexploitation as well as environmental contamination are the main threats to coastal and fisheries resources for both sites visited.

Information has also been gathered from different documents and projects in these regions, mostly related to OSPESCA; we highlight, among other documents:

- i) A study on lobster fishing in the Caribbean sea;
- ii) A project profile to carry out economic diversification activities with Miskitos handicapped divers in Honduras and Nicaragua.
- iii) A report on the macroeconomic indicators in the fishing and aquaculture sector of the Central American Isthmus for 2000–2007;
- iv) A preliminary report on the Structural Survey on Traditional Fishing and Aquaculture in Central America for 2009; and
- v) OSPESCA's executive report on the plan to support fishing in Central America.



Tourist divers in the Bocas del Toro Archipelago as part of the low impact tourism that is being implemented in Panama, August

2010

This compilation, together with the market research on products and services associated with conservation and tourism that Solimar began in Cahuita-Bocas del Toro in September, will permit the identification and establishment of pilot plans and support for strategic activities with groups or organizations that promote and/or sell products and services related to conservation and sustainable tourism. In each case, the activities will be designed

according to business plans using the Business Model Guide prepared under the USAID/CCAW Project as a model.

KRA 2.4.3 Number of Sea Turtle Hatchlings Protected and Released

Progress to date: The MAREA project was able to define the priority activities to protect nests and hatchlings in the trans-boundary area of Cahuita-Bocas del Toro.

With respect to the Cahuita-Bocas del Toro site, work was conducted with the Caribbean Conservation Corporation (CCC) to define the priority activities to be carried out between October 2010 and March 2011. The Bocas del Toro's Chiriquí beach, Panama was selected as the initial action site. With MAREA's support and through public-private alliances, it is anticipated that over the next 12 months an approximate total of 5,500 nests, which represent around 500,000 newborn Hawksbill and Leatherback turtles, will be protected.

KRA 2.5 Foster the establishment of public-private alliances and partnerships to leverage funds for conservation and sustainable harvest practices

Progress to date: MAREA identified entities having the potential to build strategic alliances in the Gulf of Honduras and Gulf of Fonseca.

2.5.1. a Identification of preliminary and potential partners in PPP.

During the six month reporting period, communications have been targeted and strengthened with contacts in different institutions that are strategic for fund raising, development of PPPs and GDAs. These entities include:

- MarFund, specific fund for the Meso American Reef (Caribbean).
- Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli, an organization that operates with funds from the Italian Cooperation Agency.
- Akvaplan-Niva (Norwegian Cooperation Agency)
- Caribbean Cruise Line Association Cruise Line Association

With MARFUND a series communications and coordination meetings were carried out to fine tune the details to jointly leverage funds. The preliminary outcomes from a series of meetings were:

- A draft agreement has been drafted, which is currently in revision for the parties' previous to signature. Focus will be on joint fund raising as well as the sharing of information and experience and promote financial mechanisms establishment especially for the Gulf of Honduras site.
- Informal technical recommendations were provided by the COP to MARFUND on a proposal to target Caribbean Cruise Liners that frequent the Central American Coast line..

In the case of Akvaplan-Niva, a strategic alliance is being developed to promote the institutional support for marine and coastal research. The main components of this agreement is to focus their efforts are on the fisheries management, mangrove assessment, analysis of marine benthos on the continental platform.

Additionally, it was also decided that Solimar will begin an opportunities assessment for alliances and associations between different stakeholders in the tourist sector. In order to do this, a Consultation Group on Conservation will be formed and, through this group, potential members for the alliances per se will be identified, which will include tourist chambers and ministries in the Central American region and entities from the private sector whose objective will be multi-lateral agencies like the United Nations, the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, and international conservation organizations.

During this period, a turtle conservation model was also identified for the Gulf of Fonseca, in which community organizations actively participate in the conservation of this species, together with El Salvador Ministry of Environment, private company (Corona del Mar) and CCC (our sub and a science based NGO). This model will be replicated and adapted for other trans-boundary sites. The model is receiving a huge attention from the local media and it could be an important tool for leveraging funds and awareness from Central American public and private sectors.

KRA 2.6 Promote coastal and marine protected areas management as an important tool for sustainable fisheries and tourism.

Progress to date: MAREA identified eight marine protected areas in the Gulf of Honduras which have the potential for improved management. They will contribute at least 80% of the foreseen hectares during the project's period of performance. Climate change impact is going to take place in the Gulf of Honduras local areas for species and ecosystems conducted for TNC.

It was decided to initially focus on the Gulf of Honduras to achieve the above mentioned KRA. Mainly due to previous projects that developed a sustainable information and technical base for marine protected areas in the Gulf of Honduras. During this period, the work plans related to this activity were finished, a trip was made to survey, map and identify the stakeholders and present the MAREA Project. This trip was made during September and it included meetings with the members and the Executive Director of the Three-national Alliance for the Gulf of Honduras which will be a key stakeholder in promoting the activities at this site.

Additionally, the necessary arrangements were made to establish a local MAREA office that will be located in Puerto Barrios, Guatemala, together with the "Local Environmental Management" Program, ASOPROGAL, and the Italian NGO Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli –CISP. Both organizations actually are carrying out projects to support sustainable fisheries in the Gulf of Honduras, so the location of MAREA's field office in this location is strategic and ideal.

A preliminary identification and selection of the marine protected areas in the Gulf of Honduras was made where MAREA will execute specific interventions seeking to reach the goal of 1.4 million hectares under improved management at the end of the project. During the project's life we expect to cover approximately 990,000 hectares in total only in the Gulf of Honduras:

Name	Country	Type	IUCN	Hectares
Gladden Spit and Silk Cayes	Belize	Marine Reserve	IV	10,514
Glovers Reef	Belize	Marine Reserve	IV	35,069
Port Honduras	Belize	Marine Reserve	IV	40,471
Sapodilla Cayes	Belize	Marine Reserve	IV	15,619
Punta de Manabique	Guatemala	Wildlife Refuge	VI	159,577
Rio Sarstun	Guatemala	Multiple use area	III	35,467
Cayos Cochinos	Honduras	Biological Reserve	V	48,925
National Marine Park "Islas de la Bahia"	Honduras	National Park	II	647,152

Once the protected marine areas are identified, MAREA will carry out an evaluation of the current status of the protected marine areas in the Gulf of Honduras regarding management performance, zoning, management of fishing resources and endangered species (with emphasis on snapper and Queen Conch) and their vulnerability to climate change. Under the participatory evaluation, MAREA will support TRIGOH's commissions work for protected areas, endangered species, and the newly-formed Three-nation Fishing Forum. This evaluation will be the basis for developing an action plan for the Gulf of Honduras and specific plans to adapt to the climate change and fishing management, initially, in five priorities protected areas. It is also expected that at least two protected areas in Guatemala and Honduras will be defined. MAREA will establish modifications to the zoning to include or expand the no take zones that give resilience to the ecosystem. Additionally, MAREA will support formation of a work group in the recently created National Marine Park "Islas de la Bahia" to prepare specific regulations for protected area, including the Management Plan.

SECTION III. PERFORMANCE MONITORING PLAN

The Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) that was developed for the program's first year established a system to meet and monitor MAREA's goals and intermediate results for each indicator. MEP's global framework provides a continuous and a systematic way to collect and analyze data and present reports on the results at periodic intervals. The plan has:

- Developed a set of protocols for the program's 17 performance/impact indicators.
- Reviewed the status of the program's results and information on the indicators' yield

The plan will continue to carry out the following:

- Verifies the yield of the quality of the data that is used
- Analyzes and evaluates the use of information on the results' generated
- Implements and continuously improves the information generated and the monitoring plan itself.

To develop the PMP, we reviewed MAREA's technical documents, annual work plan and subcontractors' documents. We also held technical meetings that allowed us to define general protocols for gathering information for each indicator, potential data sources, type of information required, and the way our information would be organized and analyzed. The schematic for the project's basic indicators can be seen in figure 1.

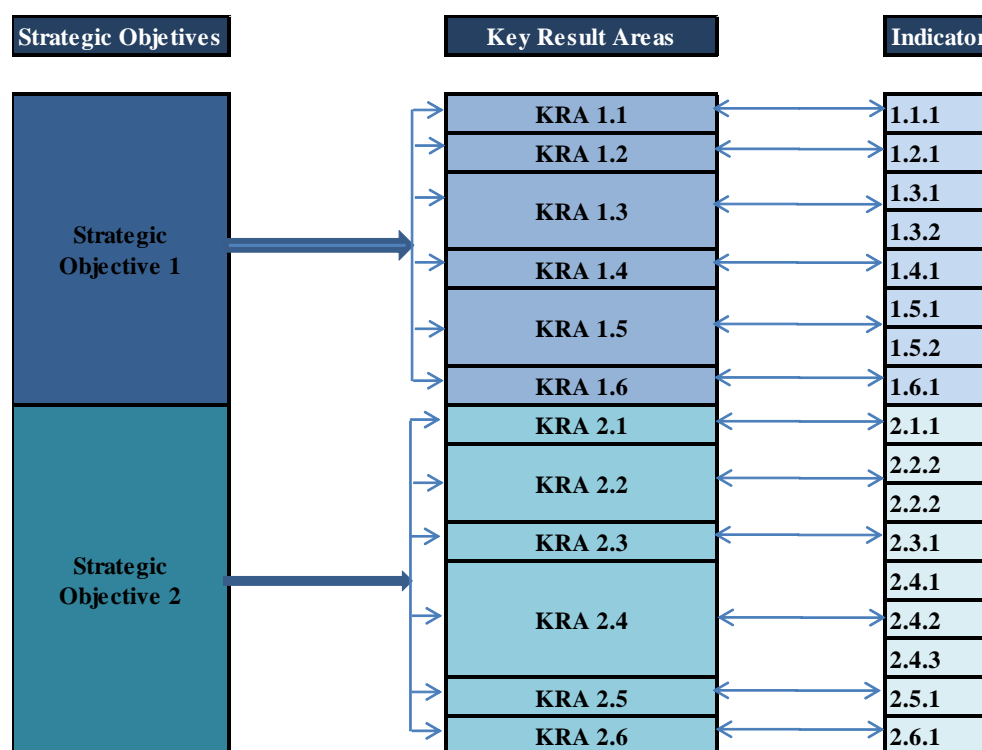


Figure 1. Organizational schematic for the program's basic indicators with the framework of the MAREA program; as details in annex C

Source: Prepared by MAREA.

The PMP is based on seven principles which are summarized below:

1. It offers direct **support** for the program and USAID's objectives;
2. It is **practical** - focusing on management and results from implementing activities;
3. It is **collaborative**, i.e., it is based on the sum of the efforts of the Core Team, Subcontractors and Strategic Partners;
4. It is **flexible**, because it seeks constant improvement in an adaptive manner;
5. It is **efficient** for gathering data and information in real time for analysis and decision-making;
6. It is **participatory** because it takes into account the different views of the professionals that work in the program, and
7. It responds to the Program's requirements.

Likewise, the roles and functions of the central team and the subcontractors were defined in the PMP's framework. This allows us to establish a system of how the Subcontractors and site coordinators will be monitored and evaluated from the central office in El Salvador.

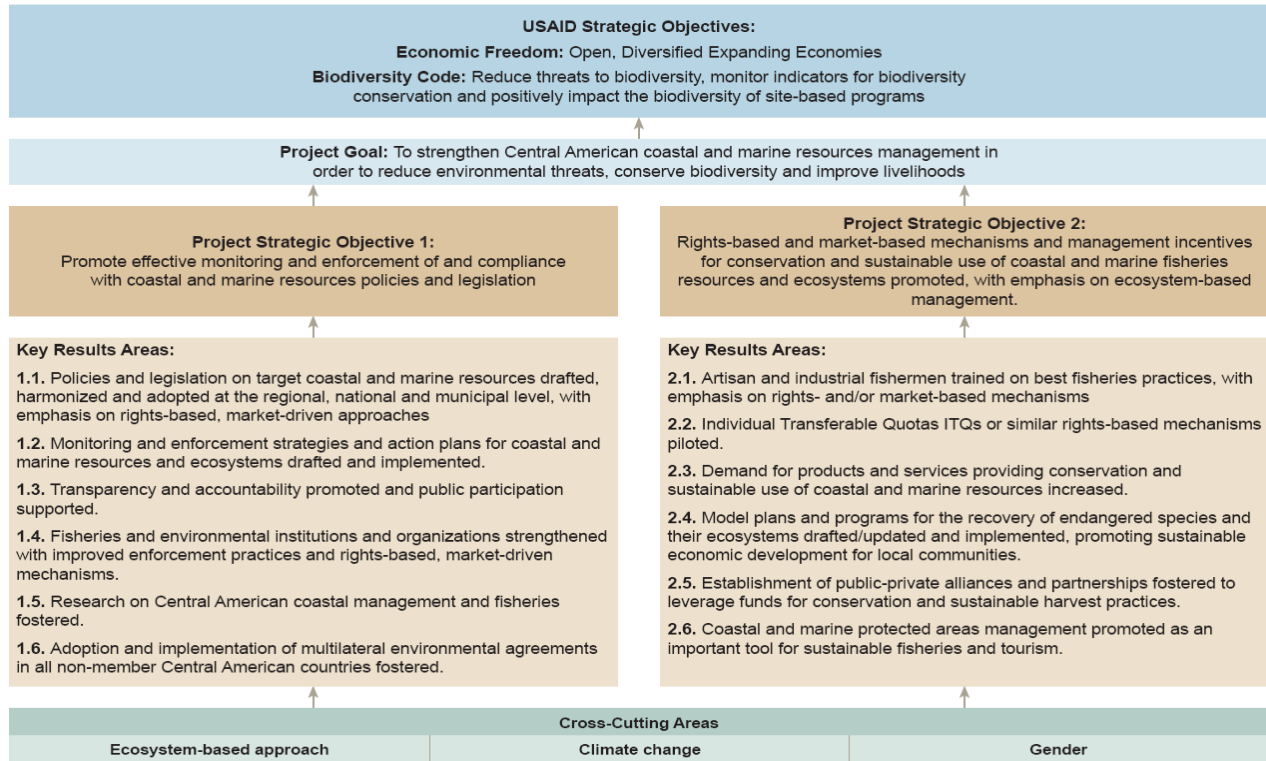
In summary the PMP has laid out a process and a series of activities that will be carried out by the central team and the subcontractors:

1. Results are clear and will be reached within the first year
2. Establishes series of verification means that support the achievements at the end of the first year.
3. Analyzes information and
4. Reports on this information

In short, this PMP is an essential a tool to support the team to develop the appropriate information to prepare quarterly and annual reports. The PMP facilitates coordination by working closely with the component leaders and subcontractors. It is an easy way to gather and processes information. It constantly quantifies the progress in reaching the results and targets. And finally it is practical and an easy database and information management system to manage.

ANNEX

A. Results Framework



B. MAREA's core team roles

- **Chief of Party (Dr. Gina C. Green):** Dr. Green oversees the management and administration of the MAREA project and supervises the technical team. She ensures adaptive management, as well as timely decision making, communicates on a daily basis with USAID, and is responsible to deliver results. She oversees the management and implementation of the sub-contracts and liaises with sub-contractors as needed. She ensures that the responsible technical team member has provided the necessary guidance to develop the subcontract agreements and deliverables. Dr. Green communicates with home office, USAID and serves as the program's voice to governments, academic institutes and other partner. The COP is directly responsible for KRA 2.5 to foster the establishment of public and private alliances and partnerships to leverage funds to provide the financial means to carry on MAREAs marine and aquatic activities at a site and regional level. Dr. Green also works closely with the Fisheries Specialist to oversee the implementation of WWF and WCS's activities. She guided the technical development of all Individual Transferable Quotas (ITQs) and subcontractors.
- **DCOP/Institutional Development Specialist (Zulma de Mendoza):** Ms. Mendoza is responsible for obtaining buy-in from national and regional environmental and governmental institutions, and maintains constant communication with these institutions. She manages the technical team in the COP's absence. Additionally, Ms. Mendoza supported the development of the branding and marking plan during the second and third quarter and is also responsible for managing compliance with the plan. She directly oversees the implementation of technical activities associated with KRA 1.1, 1.3, and 1.6 and manages the subcontract for TNC.
- **Fisheries Specialist (Sergio Martinez)** works and liaises with OSPESCA, and fisheries department's at the national, and local level with the aim of promoting fishery policies and the implementation of rights-based and market-driven approaches to sustainable fishing practices. Mr. Martinez is directly responsible for the execution of technical activities associated with KRA 1.2, 1.4 and 2.2. He oversees the subcontract with WCS and co-manages the WWF subcontract together with the COP. Together with WCS and WWF, he supports the design of fishery plans at the national and regional levels for target species and provides technical assistance for the development of policies, norms, and regulations related to fisheries.
- **Strategic Activities Coordinator/Alternative Livelihoods Specialist (Augusto Rosales):** Mr. Rosales oversees the technical activities associated with KRA 2.1 and 2.3 and manages Solimar's subcontract. He monitors market opportunities, promotes alternative livelihoods for fishermen, and coordinates with local communities, specifically for the Miskitos and Bocas del Toro, Panama site. Mr. Rosales seeks opportunities to integrate the private sector into the project and leverage resources for conservation. He supports the COP in the development of

reports, media campaigns, success stories, and other program communications, and will be also responsible for developing the criteria of the Strategic Activities Fund recipients.

- ***Endangered Species Specialist (Juan Carlos Villagran)***: Mr. Villagran is directly responsible for the implementation of KRA 2.4 and 2.6 and manages CCC's subcontract. He oversees and guides the development of site-based marine protected area plans, assists in the development of endangered species plans and campaigns, and provides technical direction for research and activities on climate change and species vulnerability. Mr. Villagran is currently in the selection process of hiring MAREA's program coordinators for the Gulf of Honduras and Miskitos Coast. Once they are hired, he will work closely with them and local partners to guide field activities.
- ***Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) specialist (Mario Jolon)***: Mr. Jolon, promotes research and knowledge sharing at the local, national, and regional levels and developed and manages the program's the monitoring and evaluation system. He coordinates the collection of project data and results, and maintains a cohesive database for each KRA. He works closely with each component leader to draft reports on results achieved and to maintain the Program's strategic direction by ensuring that the Program is adhering to the performance monitoring plan (PMP). Mr. Jolón provides technical direction for the activities associated with KRA 1.5. In particular, he works closely with the fisheries specialist to foster research and develop and implement an appropriate strategy for Coastal and Management Research for each Central American country
- ***Operations Manager (Evelyn Escobar)***, Manages the administrative staff which includes Carlos Posada, MAREA's accountant, and two administrative assistants- Abraham Guzman and Ivonne Miron. Supported by the home-office project management unit (PMU), the operations manager and accountant have established MAREA's administrative systems, accounting and financial management procedures and in the upcoming quarter will train all project staff in program budget and cost control mechanisms. Ms. Escobar liaises with the PMU, which is responsible for ensuring contractual compliance, monitoring the program budget, tracking expenditures against projections, and ensuring that funds are well spent in achieving program goals.

C. Summary of PMP Indicators and Results to Date

Results		Indicator	Goals		
OE	KRA		Actual YTD	Annual 2010	Life of Project
1	KRA 1.1	1.1.1 Number of coastal and marine resources conservation and sustainable use policies and legislation adopted	0	0	20
	KRA 1.2	1.2.1 Number of coastal and marine resources law monitoring and enforcement strategies drafted and implemented	0	0	10
	KRA 1.3	1.3.1 Trend in reporting target species related violations	N/A	2	12
		1.3.2. Increased effectiveness in processing target species related violations	N/A	2	12
	KRA 1.4	1.4.1 Number of people from fisheries and environment governmental and non – governmental institutions trained	0	100	1500
	KRA 1.5	1.5.1 Number of regional mechanisms implemented to foster research and provide information to sustainably manage coastal and marine resources elaborated.	2 Draft	3	14
		1.5.2. Number of technical and scientific articles on coastal and marine resources	1 Draft	2	40
2	KRA 1.6	1.6.1. Number of countries adopting and implementing the Inter American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles or any other agreement among countries to protect target species.	0	3	4
	KRA 2.1	2.1.1. Number of artisan and industrial fishermen trained on best fisheries practices, with emphasis on rights and / or market based mechanisms. (M/F/T)	N/A	500	5,000
	KRA 2.2	2.2.1. Percentage increase of total harvest of select species under rights – based mechanisms and best fisheries practices	N/A	0	25%
		2.2.2. Number of quotas established for the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources	0	1	10
	KRA 2.3	2.3.1. Number of communications efforts	5 proposed	5	40
	KRA 2.4	2.4.1. Number of model plans and programs drafted or updated and implemented for coastal and marine resource management	N/A	4	22
		2.4.2. Value (USD) of additional sales of products or services that can be directly attributed to the activity interventions and which support conservation and / or sustainable use efforts.	N/A	0	7M
		2.4.3 Number of sea turtle hatchlings protected and released.	N/A	50,000	250,000
	KRA 2.5	2.5.1. Value (USD) of non-USG financed conservation efforts leveraged, payment for environmental services, or additional revenues provided for conservation by governments and the private sector	N/A	500,000	5M
	KRA 2.6	2.6.1 Extension of important biological areas under better management as a result of assistance from the U.S.G assistance.	N/A	50,000	1,200,000 Ha